

Burn Area Recovery Task Force (BARTF) Report Ventura County Nightsky Fire



Image © 2007 DigitalGlobe
Image © 2007 City of Thousand Oaks



Burn Area Recovery Task Force (BARTF) Report Ventura County Night sky Fire

Executive Summary

The Night sky Fire burned approximately 30 acres near the edge of a suburbanized residential area of Lexington Hills Estate two miles from Moorpark in Ventura County. The denuded slopes within the burned area present a direct threat to four homes and a potential threat to another three within this neighborhood. Two endangered plant species are in the area: California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*) and Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta Lyonii*). Removal of fire debris and erosion control measures may reduce the risk to the public and to property. Funding for debris removal and erosion control measures may fall under the purview of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Some debris removal and erosion control measures may also be eligible for reimbursement from Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Program.

Purpose

This BARTF report will identify and prioritize emergency protective measures and hazard mitigation projects to identify post-fire flooding, erosion, and debris flow hazards. It will also identify gaps in funding, proposed funding sources for all projects, and potential issues related to recovery. The Night sky Fire is one of the numerous Southern California wildfires included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-1731-CA.

The information was gathered for this report by state and federal Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) reports, flood hazard maps, and meetings with various local, state and federal officials.

Introduction

The Night sky Fire burned a small natural area which was approximately 30 acres near the edge of a suburbanized residential area two miles from Moorpark, California. The fire occurred in the Lexington Hills Estates. The burned area is within the Calleguas-Conejo watershed. The fire was of moderate severity, and roughly 20 percent of the original ground cover remains. There are two species of concern within the burned area: California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*) and Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta Lyonii*). Both species are listed on state and federal endangered species lists. Project-related impacts to these species may require consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Environmental permits may be required for many of the proposed projects identified in the BARTF Report. Many of these proposed projects can be completed under emergency conditions or under the waiver process identified in State Executive Order (S-13-07). Projects that do not fall under these classifications

would need to follow the regular permit process (see Environmental Permitting Requirements Appendix).

The BAER report for the Nightsky Fire is included in the BAER Small Fires report. It can be viewed or downloaded from the California Office of Emergency Services web site: www.oes.ca.gov

For any cultural resource concerns refer to the Archaeological Appendix.

Calleguas-Conejo

Background

The Nightsky Fire occurred at the northeast end of the Arroyo Santa Rosa sub-watershed of the Calleguas-Conejo watershed, about two miles south of Moorpark. An unnamed creek from the fire area is tributary to Arroyo Santa Rosa, a creek to the southwest of the burn area.

Analysis

There is a potential for direct flooding and debris flow from clogged culverts to four homes and a potential threat to another three within a single neighborhood roughly two miles south of Moorpark.

Potential Emergency Protective Measures

Two potential protective measures have been identified:

- Clear culverts to reduce the threat of flooding or debris flows; and
- Implement erosion control to reduce silt runoff from burned hillsides.

Table 1 – Possible Funding Sources

Yes	No	Funding Sources
X		California Disaster Assistance Act
X		FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program
X		Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
	X	Federal Highway Works Administration (FHWA)
	X	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
	X	Department of Interior (DOI)
	X	Insurance
	X	Other funding:

Appendices

Appendix A - Environmental Permitting Requirements

Appendix B - Archaeological

Appendix C - Descriptions of State and Federal Program Funding

Appendix E - Preliminary Suggested Projects